HF Happenings 877

December

9 - Closing date for Newbie Party logs
10 - International Human Rights Day
10 to 21 - Ek lief Krismis Market, George
11 - International Mountain Day
12 to 30 - Durban Botanic Gardens Trail of Light
12a - Paraskevidekatriaphobia
12a to 15 - Gabriëlskloof Favourite Things Market, Bot River
12a to 16 - Eden Kite Festival, Garden Route
14 – Geminids meteor shower
14 and 15 – ARRL 10 m contest
16 - Day of Reconciliation; Prince Alfred Hamlet Appelkoosfees
22 - Summer Solstice
23 – Ursids meteor shower
23 to 30 - Hanukkah
25 – Christmas Day
26 – Family Day
31 - End of the 2019 CQ DX Marathon and the YOTA month

January 2020

1 – Download the 2020 Blue Book; New Year's Day; start of the CQ DX Marathon
3 and 4 - Quadrantids meteor shower
4 – ARRL Kids Day
4 and 5 – ARRL RTTY Roundup
15 – Provincial schools open; SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint
17 to 19 – PEARS National VHF/UHF contest

The ARRL 10 Metre Contest

The ARRL 10 Metre Contest is on 14 and 15 December http://www.arrl.org/10-meter . This is not exactly the time in the sunspot cycle to expect a lot of 10 metre DX action, so scores could be a bit dampened. There are other ways to set goals for yourself, though. This contest has TWENTY operator entry categories. Just for fun, lets figure out if there are some contest records we could break. We will start by looking at the ARRL 10 Metre contest records up to 2017 www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Records/2017/2017-10M-Records_W_VE_XE-RevA.pdf. The easiest way to set a new record is to find one that has not been previously set! We hit pay dirt on the first page of ARRL Section records. Looks like there are not any records for SOA-MIX-QRP or SOU-CW-QRP for the Colorado ARRL Section. Checking the 2018 Contest Results, it appears nobody from Colorado entered either of those categories for 2018. You can make a decent effort in 2019, knowing that you are only competing against other 2019 Colorado stations for the record. Sure, the record may not survive the next upturn in sunspots...but it could be a fun goal. I am not going to do your work for you, but here is a secret: It appears that nearly every ARRL Section has at least one record that has never been set as of 2017. From my reading, only Mississippi and North Texas have all of the record slots filled (again, as of 2017). Do your own research before you book your tickets and pack your amplifier, microphone, and computer to Indiana to try to set the SOU-PH-HP (Single operator, unlimited, phone, high power) record.

Pitcairn Island

The recent VP6R DXpedition is now a gorgeous photo book (239 pages), authored by Nodir Tursun-Zade, EY8MM and packed with spectacular pictures. It is available for you to browse through and/or purchase at www.blurb.com/b/9820054-vp6r-expedition-to-pitcairn-island.

Scheduled transmission from Grimeton Radio/SAQ on Christmas Eve, 24 December 2019

On the morning of Christmas Eve, 24 December we will try to start the old Alexanderson 200 kW transmitter, from 1924 and send out a Christmas message on VLF 17,2 kHz CW. The transmitter will be tuned up from around 08:30 (07:30 UTC) and a message will be transmitted at 09:00 (08:00 UTC).

Guests are welcome to attend the transmission at the radio station in Grimeton from 08:00 local time. The Alexander association will arrange Coffee and Christmas cookies, free of charge. No entrance fees. For those of you who cannot attend, we will broadcast the event live from Grimeton, Sweden on our YouTube Channel
https://alexander.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=521e9c51318e4c7f70e1e6b56&id=8571a62308&e=a135588730

New Online Reception Report Form - Please No E-Mail Reports! We are introducing a new online SAQ reception report form to be used by listeners to report reception of any SAQ transmissions https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfEqs76tldb-fIdWwF1NJjkMKkefE9loOyaT7SjInZIe1-6dQ/viewform. We are kindly asking listeners not to send SAQ reception reports via e-mail. QSL-reports to SAQ are kindly received via the Reception report form at alexander.n.se/receptionreport; or via the SM bureau; or direct by postal mail to The Alexander Association, Radiostationen Grimeton 72, SE-432 98 Grimeton, Sweden

The SK6SAQ amateur radio station will be active on the following frequencies: 7 035 kHz CW or 14 035 kHz CW or 3 755 kHz SSB. Two stations will be on the air most of the time.

RTTY Operation

You can get a refresh on RTTY operating tips from K0AD's 2016 Presentation "Tips for Better RTTY Contest Operation" in preparation for a slew of diddle delights over the next few weeks http://www.w0aa.org/docs/meeting/2016/K0AD%20Presentation%202016.pdf. Sticking to a digital diet, get in the RTTY contesting mood on 21 December with the OK DX RTTY Contest, maintain with the NCCC Thursday RTTY Sprint practices, start the digital New Year right with the SARTG New Year RTTY Contest and then gorge yourself the weekend of 4 January in the ARRL RTTY Roundup.

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)
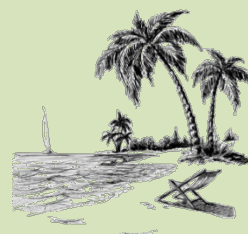
Morocco, CN. Special station CN19JIM will be active between 21 and 22 December from Imlil in the High Atlas mountain range of Morocco. The call sign's suffix stands for Journee Internationale de la Montagne (International Mountain Day). QSL via RW6HS.

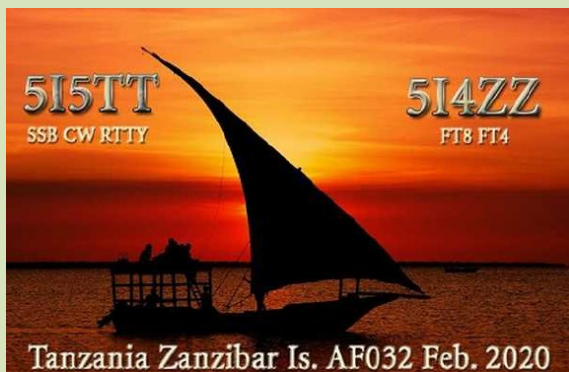## African Islands
IOTA Frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Canary Islands, EA8. Erich, HB9FIH is currently staying on El Hierro (AF-004) and operates as EA8/HB9FIH until the end of March 2020. He is active on HF

using CW, digital modes and SSB. He also has plans for SOTA and IOTA activations during that time. QSL via HB9FIH (B), LoTW, eQSL. http://hb9fih.org/

Senegal, 6W.: A team of Senegalese operators (6W7JX, 6W1PZ, 6W1KI, 6W1QL, 6W1PA, 6W1SQ, 6W1SV, 6W1GF, and 6W1TA) will activate Goree Island (AF-045 Senegal North group) as 6V1A from 13 to 15 December on HF using SSB and CW. QSL via 6W1QL and LoTW.

Tanzania, 5H. The Italian DXpedition Team activates Zanzibar Island (AF-032) between 4 and 18 February 2020 as 5I5TT (CW, SSB, RTTY) and 5I4ZZ (FT12) with 5 rigs on HF. QSL via I2YSB.

Tanzania, 5H. Members of the Low Bands Contest Club - OM7M (OK2WM, OM5ZW, OM5MF, OM4AZF and SP9LJD are going to put Pemba Island (AF-063) on the air from 6 to 18 February 2020. They will be active as 5H4WZ on HF with CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. They will participate in the ARRL DX CW and WPX RTTY contests. QSL via OM3PA.

Word to the Wise

Octave - the interval between a frequency and another twice the original frequency. The range of 7 MHz to 14 MHz is an octave.

Operating Tip

Ya Gotta Run - with the exception of contests like sprints where there is not a concept of running, if you want to win, you will have to run. In most contests, there are many casual contesters that will mostly search and pounce and you have to be able to get casual contesters into your log.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 9 to 16 December 2019

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 9 December
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: Member: RS(T), state, province or country and member no; Non-member: RS(T), state, province or country and power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 11 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:
http://qrpcontest.com/4sqrp
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf

NAQCC CW Sprint
01:30 - 03:30 UTC 11 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once; Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 14 December 2019
E-mail logs to: naqcc33@windstream.net and/or jcoreyc@gmail.com
Upload log at: http://naqcc.info/sprint_submit_log.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201912.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 11 December
Geographic Focus: United States
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 12 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 December
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 13 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 11 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 12 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 14 December 2019
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 12a December
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 12a December
Geographic Focus: United States
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 14 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 12a December
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

ARRL 10-Metre Contest
00:00 UTC 14 December to 24:00 UTC 15 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high - CW, phone or mixed
Single Op Unlimited - QRP, low or high - CW, phone or mixed
Multi-Single (Low/High)
Max operating hours: 36 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province; XE: RST and state; DX: RST and serial no; MM: RST and ITU Region
QSO Points: 2 points per Phone QSO; 4 points per CW QSO
Multipliers: Each US State and DC once per mode; Each VE Province/Territory once per mode; Each XE State once per mode; Each DXCC Country once per mode; Each ITU Region (MM only) once per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org
Mail logs to: 10 Metre Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at: www.arrl.org/10-Metre

PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint
00:00 UTC 14 December to 23:59 UTC 16 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: PSK31
Bands: 160, 80, 40 m
Classes: HP/MP/LP/QRP
Max operating hours: 6 hrs per UTC day
Max power: HP: 100 watts; MP: 50 watts; LP: 25 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO on 40 m; 2 points per QSO on 80 m; 3 points per QSO on 160 m
Multipliers: Each state, province and DXCC country once only
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://hamclubs.info/scorer/
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: www.podxs070.com/o7o-club-sponsored-contests/triple-play-low-band-sprint

TRC Digi Contest
06:00 UTC 14 December to 18:00 UTC 15 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op 3 Band – low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single
Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W
Exchange: TRC Members: RST, serial no and "TRC"; non-TRC Members: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with TRC member; 1 point per QSO with same continent; 2 points per QSO with different continent; 1 point per QSO between TRC members
Multipliers: Each TRC member country once per band; Each country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 22 December 2019
E-mail logs to: trcdxc@trcdx.org
Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: Atanas Kolev, PO Box 49, 6100 Kazanlak, Bulgaria
Find rules at: www.trcdx.org/trcdxc/html/trcdigi.html

CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run
21:00 - 22:59 UTC 15 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and state, province or country
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 5 points per QSO with W0CQC or N0CQC
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 14 January 2020
E-mail logs to: vkumagai@q.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.coloradoqrpclub.org/contests/snow.htm

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 16 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 December 2019
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun/

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC CW Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 18 December
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 18 December
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 December
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 18 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 19 December
NCCC RTTY Sprint ,01:45 - 02:15 UTC 20 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 20 December
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 December
AGB-Party Contest, 16:00 - 17:00 UTC 20 December
Russian 160-Metre Contest, 20:00 - 24:00 UTC 20 December
Feld Hell Sprint, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 21 December
OK DX RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 21 December
Padang DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 21 December to 11:59 UTC 22 December
Gedebage CW Contest, 12:00 UTC 21 December to 11:59 UTC 22 December
Croatian CW Contest, 14:00 UTC 21 December to 14:00 UTC 22 December
ARRL CW Rookie Roundup, 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 22 December

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter